



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

LINDA McCULLOCH

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 1

Date 1-10-2011

Bill No. SB 55

SB 55 Implement MOVE Act
Senate Administration, RM 335
January 10, 2011 @ 3 PM
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Remarks

- Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the committee.
- For the record, I am Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch.
- I am here today to support Senate Bill 55, which implements the Federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, (the MOVE Act).
- Thank you to Senator Larry Jent for sponsoring this legislation, and for joining our commitment to ensure Montana's military service members and overseas citizens, known as UOCAVA voters, have equal opportunity to participate in the election process.
- The fairness and integrity of every election is of upmost importance. Increasing voter turnout for our service members, their families and other overseas citizens should be a priority for all of us.
- Montana's 56 county Election Administrators have had a long and noteworthy track record of providing services that allow our military or overseas citizen voters to request, receive and send election materials electronically.
 - This includes the ability to register to vote and request an absentee ballot (using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), to vote and to return a ballot electronically.
- As Senator Jent mentioned, recent changes to Montana law (SB 367 in 2009) and the federal MOVE Act have allowed us to provide UOCAVA voters more seamless access to their ballot - no matter where they are living.
- Senate Bill 55 simply clarifies in law some of our existing practices, while uniformly implementing additional mandates outlined in the MOVE Act.

- I launched the Ballot Marking Wizard for the 2010 November General Election, and received positive feedback from many military voters.
 - The Ballot Marking Wizard allows UOCAVA voters to go online and access their precinct-specific ballot without having to request one from the county election office.
 - Some voters admitted it was the first election they had voted in many years, because in past election cycles, they were not able to receive, vote and return their ballot in time.
 - Although some counties, mostly larger counties with IT resources, have offered services electronically to military and overseas citizen voters, the Ballot Marking Wizard ensures that these voters, no matter where they are registered in Montana, have access to the voting process electronically.
- Every eligible voter deserves to have a voice on Election Day, and this bill ensures our military men and women, their families and other overseas citizens can more easily participate in all federal elections.
- Please vote YES for Senate Bill 55.
- Thank you for your time today.